

**AdoptAClassroom.org STEM Teacher Finalists
for PCMG
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3-5 ESL Newcomers
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How would you use a \$2,000 grant to purchase technology for your classroom?

I am a first-year teacher, currently working with students who are new to the country. If I received this grant, I would start with increasing the number of iPads in our classroom. During our guided math time, students have to rotate and share the technology. More iPads allows for students to spend more time learning math, and they would also use this technology to deepen their learning in science.

Another form of technology that I would purchase would be monitors. During instruction, I constantly ask my students to face the Promethean Board in order to understand the concepts. Not only is the document camera hard to see from a far distance, but it is extremely limiting their technology experience. My students are English language learners, and considering the fact that they have limited language, visuals are extremely important to their learning and comprehension.

Why is technology important for you and your students?

Many of the students I teach have limited skills and experiences with technology. My students are currently learning how to login to their accounts using their district username and password. The process of learning how to login is typically taught in kindergarten. By the time they reach the 3rd grade, the average student knows how to login as result of years of practice. What many would consider a simple task actually



takes time for newcomer students to achieve, simply because they are new to the world of technology.

Technology would help me reach and meet my students by not only expanding their learning opportunities, but also it would help me, as an instructor, teach according to their learning style. Technology can certainly assist me in discovering my students learning style even more. Overall, more access to technology would advance the whole group and change the dynamics of my classroom, but most importantly technology would benefit students by making things less overwhelming and more engaging.

What is special or unique about your classroom and students?

Our super-scholars, as we refer to them are enrolled in a program called NABAD, which translates to peace in the Somali language. NABAD caters to students with a Somali background, who are new to the country from conflicted areas in Ethiopia, Kenya, or Somalia. My students are mostly considered students with limited or interrupted formal education. Most of the students resided in refugee camps located in Ethiopia or Kenya, and did not have access to formal education or stable schooling.

We teach them basic survival skills to help them feel less overwhelmed and more welcomed in their new school, as well as their new country. They enjoy being in class each and every day, because their culture is not only recognized but celebrated and upheld. My students come to school every day ready to learn and take advantage of this educational opportunity.

Photos from their classroom

